

Please amend the specification as follows:

On page 1, line 7, please amend the Title to read as follows:

METHODS OF AND APPARATUS FOR
ROUTING RANKED CRITICAL
CONDUCTORS IN RANKED
PREFERRED TRACKS

Please amend the paragraph starting on page 3, line 17, to read as follows:

As circuit designs become more complex, and utilize higher and higher signal frequencies, the distance between conductors becomes an increasingly critical factor due to the possibility that signals on one ~~conductors~~ conductor might be inductively or capacitively coupled-to one or more other conductors. For example, conductor 52 is adjacent to conductor 54, making it possible that a signal on conductor 54 might be unintentionally coupled to conductor 52, causing conductor 52 to act in a way which is not intended by the designer.